

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 17, 18 and 20, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claims 1-16 (cancelled)**

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** A process for forming a stable, high solids content, partially aqueous composition containing reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids, comprising the steps, in sequence, of (A) heating a concentrated ~~solution~~ preparation of reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids in their undissolved free acid form to fluid state, and (B) adding a concentrated aqueous alkali metal hydroxide solution to said heated ~~solution~~ preparation of reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids, with stirring, to form a concentrated solution containing an alkali metal salt of said reduced (*rho*-) iso-alpha-acids.

**Claim 18 (currently amended):** The process of claim 17, wherein said concentrated aqueous alkali hydroxide solution is added to said heated preparation of reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids stepwise until a substantially neutral or slightly alkaline pH is attained.

**Claim 19 (cancelled)**

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** The process of claim 17, further comprising the step (C) of cooling said resulting, concentrated aqueous solution of the alkali metal salts of reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids of step (B) to room temperature.

**Claim 21 (original):** The process of claim 17, wherein said concentrated alkali metal hydroxide solution comprises potassium hydroxide.

**Claim 22 (original):** The process of claim 21, wherein said potassium hydroxide comprises a saturated aqueous solution containing about 45 weight percent potassium hydroxide.

**Claims 23 - 27 (cancelled)**

**HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.**  
130 W. CUSHING STREET  
TUCSON, AZ 85701  
TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
TEL. 603.668.1400  
FAX. 603.668.8567